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their statesmen have a sense of chivalry which responds to a straightforward appeal; one is safer in reposing confidence in this than in promises or threats. Harris was not only right in his estimate of the character of the Shogun's advisers, but he argued correctly that it was a tactical blunder to endanger by a sudden flight the exercise of a minister's right of residence at the capital, for which he had contended during two years.

Yet it is curious to observe that the most charitable critic of his time called it a grave error to assume Japanese civilization to be on a par with that of the Western world. "The Japanese [he declares] are not a civilized, but a semi-civilized people, and the condition of affairs in this country is quite analogous to that of Europe during the middle ages." It is possible that the Western world has altered its terms in sixty years and is not as prone now as then to assume fixed standards for "civilization".

F. W. WILLIAMS.

*Japan Day by Day—1877, 1878-79, 1882-83.* By EDWARD S. MORSE.

In two volumes. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. 450; 426. \$8.00.)

THESE volumes are in my eyes history—although not *a* history. The historian can no more ignore Morse's *Japan* than he can Dr. Johnson's *Tour to the Hebrides*, Pepys's *Diary*, or Marco Polo's frequently misleading but always valuable Journey to the Kathay of Kublai Khan. Morse's first visit to Nippon was almost coincident with my own; and it is a pleasure for me to bear witness to the rare combination of scientific training, physical endurance, contagious good humor, and finally of opportunities offered by official rank in the learned world of Tokyo—all these united to make a diary crowded with incidents and observations, the more precious for being impressions recorded before the novelty had worn off. The author will soon celebrate his eightieth birthday—although only the calendar taxes him with age!—and we are grateful that these volumes have so long lain dormant. A younger traveller might have been less wise or less modest and sought to perfect the style or suppress some impressions which afterwards had to be corrected. For instance, he is present at a fire in the capital and laughs derisively at the antics of the fire brigade—because he does not understand their object. We think the hose is meant to squirt water on the house; the Japanese firemen of 1877 used the hose to saturate only the men who risked their lives in demolishing such inflammable buildings as lay to leeward of the conflagration. In general, however, Professor Morse had from the outset a body-guard of loving and admiring students who initiated him into every domestic, religious, and political arcanum and who consequently saved him from the endless pitfalls into which the mere globe-trotter stumbles, wallows, and emerges—with a book. We are spared the latter-day nonsense so sedulously spread by our California friends that "all

Japanese are dishonest"! On this matter Morse remarks (I. 38) "I am informed that some stealing takes place when the people have been associated for some time with the so-called civilized races; but in the interior dishonesty is seldom known and, indeed, is of rare occurrence in treaty ports."

Morse cannot be classified—unless under many heads: zoology, archaeology, astronomy, palaeontology, philology, toxology—yet to-day he is best known in Boston as an authority in Japanese art and architecture. I have read these two volumes through, page by page, and have placed them on my shelf of books to be read again. These lines attempt to give the student some notion of his work. Yet I find that my pen draws me to rhapsody rather than to critical review. Not a chapter that does not tempt one to quote largely. How define Morse's book? As well summarize the wares at a world's fair or the paintings of the Louvre. The student of history will find in every chapter light that will help him to understand the trend of Japanese endeavor to-day—and every line readable. To conclude as I began—the work is not *a* history, yet the subtle wit of Gibbon, the charming garrulity of Herodotus, the philosophic calm of Hume, the gay worldliness of Voltaire, the searching satire of Macaulay—the student will feel the vibration of these great historians of the past in the sympathetic pages of Morse's *Japan Day by Day*.

POULTNEY BIGELOW.

#### MINOR NOTICES

*Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the year 1915.* (Washington, 1917, pp. 375.) This volume of the *Annual Reports* contains a greater proportion of formal matter than many of its predecessors, because of the unusual amount of business which had to be transacted in the thirty-first annual meeting of the society. Some eighty pages, too, are occupied by reports on the archives of the states of California and Vermont, made for the Public Archives Commission, the former by Edward L. Head, archivist at Sacramento, the latter by Dr. A. H. Shearer. There are, however, some notable contributions of historical narrative or exposition, such as Professor W. S. Ferguson's paper on Economic Causes of International Rivalries and Wars in Ancient Times; a learned account of East German Colonization in the Middle Ages, by Professor J. W. Thompson; Miss Davenport's paper on America and European Diplomacy, to 1648; that of Professor Moses on the Social Revolution of the Eighteenth Century in South America; that of Dr. R. H. Lutz on Rudolph Schleiden and his Visit to Richmond, April 25, 1861, and two papers on Nationalism, by Professors Edward Krehbiel and W. T. Laprade.

*An Historical Introduction to Social Economy.* By F. Stuart Chapin, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology and Economics in Smith Col-